

## Argument in Opposition to Proposition 85

DOCTORS AND NURSES, including the California Medical Association, the California Nurses Association, American Academy of Pediatrics-California District, California Academy of Family Physicians and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists-District IX California, all STRONGLY OPPOSE PROPOSITION 85.

They understand that while PARENTS RIGHTFULLY WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN THEIR TEENAGERS' LIVES, in the real world, SOME California TEENAGERS COME FROM HOMES where they can't talk to their parents, where there is violence, or WHERE A FAMILY MEMBER HAS SEXUALLY ABUSED THEM.

THESE TEENS CAN'T GO TO THEIR PARENTS. They fear being kicked out of their homes, beaten or worse. Proposition 85 forces these teens to delay critical medical care or turn to self-induced or illegal back-alley abortions. Some will go across the border; some will suffer serious injuries or even consider suicide.

PROPOSITION 85 PUTS THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF TEENAGERS AT RISK.

No law can mandate good family communication. The real answer to teen pregnancy and abortion is strong, caring families and comprehensive sex education, including abstinence. But sadly, not all California teens live in homes with strong, caring families.

For OUR MOST VULNERABLE TEENAGERS – those who most need protection – PROPOSITION 85 PUTS THEM IN HARM'S WAY OR FORCES THEM TO GO TO COURT.

FORCING A SCARED, PREGNANT TEENAGER who can't go to her parents INTO CALIFORNIA'S OVERCROWDED COURT SYSTEM WON'T WORK – AND COULD CAUSE TEENS MORE HARM. Courts are already backlogged, there's a lot of red tape, and they are hard to navigate, even for adults.

Think about it. The teen is scared, pregnant, her family might be abusive. SHE DOESN'T NEED A JUDGE. SHE NEEDS A COUNSELOR AND GOOD MEDICAL CARE – WITHOUT DELAY.

**SUBJECT TO COURT  
ORDERED CHANGES**

Proposition 85's new bureaucratic rules WON'T GUARANTEE that parents are notified. Who will sign for the mail? What happens when the mail is delayed, or the parents aren't home, or the teen intercepts the letter?

The real answer to teen pregnancy is prevention *and* caring families – NOT NEW LAWS THAT ENDANGER OUR DAUGHTERS.

AND PROPOSITION 85 IS NOT ABOUT PROTECTING TEENS FROM OLDER MEN AND SEXUAL PREDATORS. Clinics already provide counseling about responsible behavior and report illegal activities.

Proposition 85 won't reduce teen pregnancy rates, can't force families to communicate, is complicated and unworkable...and is not about predators – BUT IT WILL PUT GENERATIONS OF CALIFORNIA'S TEENAGERS AT RISK.

WE ALL MUST CARE enough about Proposition 85 to VOTE NO because DEFEATING Prop 85 is about KEEPING OUR DAUGHTERS SAFE and PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE.

SUPPORTERS of Proposition 85 – including the Traditional Values Coalition, Evangelicals for Social Action and Right to Life of Central California – ARE THE SAME PEOPLE WHO WANT TO OVERTURN ROE v. WADE and BAN ALL ABORTIONS. Despite what they say, Proposition 85 ISN'T ABOUT PARENTAL RIGHTS; IT'S ABOUT THEIR POLITICAL AGENDA.

Join PARENTS, DOCTORS, NURSES, PLANNED PARENTHOOD, and THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA and VOTE NO on 85. For more information about REAL TEEN SAFETY, VISIT OUR WEBSITE, [www.noon85.com](http://www.noon85.com). VOTE NO ON PROP 85.

1. **Jack Lewin, M.D., CEO, California Medical Association**
2. **Robert L. Black, M.D., American Academy of Pediatrics, California District**
3. **Kathy Kneer, ~~President~~ & CEO, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California**

497 Words

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